R E P O R T  R E S U M E S

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RATIONALE AND SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED IN COOPERATION WITH THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION BRANCH OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

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THE PROBLEMS OF EFFECTIVELY CONCENTRATING COURSES, EFFICIENTLY USING TIME AND MONEY, PROVIDING ADEQUATE TRAINING, AND HELPING ALLEVIATE THE NURSE SHORTAGE COULD BE SOLVED BY ESTABLISHING DEFINITIVE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN NURSING. THESE WOULD QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL BRANCH AND WOULD BE APPROPRIATELY ADMINISTERED BY IOWA AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. COMMUNITY COLLEGES COULD ALSO DEVELOP QUALITY PREPROFESSIONAL CURRICULUMS WITH COURSE CREDITS TRANSFERABLE TO BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING. THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATE PROGRAM WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO OTHER HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AREA SCHOOLS. ITS PERSONNEL WOULD MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE IOWA BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND BOARD OF NURSING. THE CURRICULUM WOULD CONSIST OF CONCURRENT CLASSROOM TEACHING AND SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE IN COOPERATING HEALTH AGENCIES FOR 11 MONTHS PER YEAR FOR 2 YEARS. THE DEGREE OF ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE WOULD BE AWARDED TO STUDENTS COMPLETING THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM WITH A GRADE-POINT AVERAGE OF 2.0 (C). GRADUATES WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO WRITE THE PROFESSIONAL NURSE LICENSING EXAMINATION AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, ENTER NURSING IN A BEGINNING STAFF POSITION. STUDENTS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 17 YEARS OLD AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES PREFERABLY WITH COURSES IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. A SUGGESTED CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ARE INCLUDED. (BS)

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# RATIONALE AND SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED IN COOPERATION WITH THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION BRANCH OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing in January, 1967

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# PREFACE

Health profession and lay groups throughout the United States continue to identify a critical shortage of well-prepared health workers to serve the nation's health service needs and even greater shortages are predicted for the future.

To help alleviate this problem, in Iowa, the number of well-prepared nurses in our State can be augmented through the establishment of definitive 2-year preparatory nursing education programs which lead to an Associate Degree in Applied Science with a major in nursing.

This in no way suggests the diminution or deletion of Iowa's on-going hospital 3-year diploma programs. Quite on the contrary, for in the foreseeable future there will be need for nurses graduated from approved education programs in <u>all</u> fields of nursing.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In its position paper on nursing education the American Nurses' Association states that graduates of associate degree programs in nursing will be considered technical (sub-professional) nurses.

Following an interpretation by the United States Attorney General, the U.S. Office of Education has authorized the fifty states and the territories to assist in the establishment and implementation of associate degree programs in nursing. This authorization is aimed at preparing larger numbers of nursing personnel to help meet the nationwide demands for more available nursing service.

This assistance is available through the Health Occupations Education Section of each state Vocational-Technical Education Branch. It provides for partial financial reimbursement and consultant and teacher-education services in the establishment, development and implementation of programs in this field of nursing education.

The Iowa Vocational-Technical Education Branch, with advice and guidance from the nursing profession, is now in a position to provide such assistance to associate degree programs in nursing administered in Iowa area community colleges and vocational-technical schools. There are now 15 such area institutions in our State. It is not foreseen that all 15 institutions would establish this program. Rather, program locations would be selected only after an evaluation to assure the availability of qualified faculty, appropriate clinical facilities, and an adequate recruitment pool.

However, assistance from Vocational-Technical Education, by statute, is confined to programs of a definitive nature. The primary objective is to produce graduates who are prepared for immediate entry into employment. All curriculum content is directly related to this objective.

The associate degree program in nursing outlined in this document is definitive, would qualify for this assistance, and could be appropriately administered by Iowa area community colleges and vocational-technical schools.

Area community colleges (but not area vocational-technical schools), at their option, may also offer a pre-nursing academic program of liberal arts courses for which credits are potentially transferrable to a baccalaureate degree program in nursing.

For example:

| A<br>Definitive ADN Program | B<br>Pre-Professional Program |
|---|---|
| 1. Course in nursing skills and knowledges and selected liberal arts content related directly to nursing and all learnings achievable in a 2-year period. | Liberal Arts Courses carrying credits potentially transferable to a program in baccalaureate preparation for nursing |
| 2. Upon satisfactory completion, the graduate would be granted an Associate Degree in Applied Science with a major in nursing. (A.D.N.) | If 2 years satisfactorily completed, a student would be granted an Associate in Arts Degree. (A.A.) If only one year completed before transfer, no degree will be granted |
| 3. Would qualify to sit for the State Registered Nurse licensure examination. | Would not be qualified to sit for State Registered Nurse licensure. |

An area community college could conceivably offer A or B, or A and B simultaneously. An area vocational-technical school, however, could offer only A. Therefore, both types of area institutions can contribute to augmenting the number of nurses for Iowa.

## II. PROBLEM

A review of curriculums of various associate degree programs in nursing shows they contain general courses all of which are related to nursing but to varying degrees. One can question whether the course content has been selective to include only that which is essential that the student receive and which can also be achieved in a two-year period. An apparent major concern has been whether or not these courses carry transfer credits.

Would it not be more realistic and educationally sound if all content in each field of nursing education were truly what is needed to prepare the type of nurse as identified in that program's objectives? With this philosophy nurse educators can more effectively fulfill their obligations to students who are expending money, time, and effort to prepare themselves for employment, to the patients who will be the recipients of their services; and to the ever-present and continuing need to improve the quality of patient care.

Throughout the country there is apparent concern that many two-year programs with their present curriculum designs are producing less than adequate bedside nurses. Supporting these concerns are expressions of the rather poor record of performances on licensing examinations and the reluctant acceptance of the graduates. Even some disquieting comments come from two-year graduates themselves which indicate some thought should be given to how we can strengthen the education of the nurse prepared in two-year programs.

## III. PROPOSED SOLUTION

A. Establish approved definitive associate degree programs in nursing whose graduates are eligible to sit for State Board examinations to become registered nurses.

1. These would be developed in selected area community colleges and vocational-technical schools with consultation from and approval by the Iowa Board of Vocational Education and by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

2. These programs, when approved by both State agencies, would qualify for partial reimbursement under the provisions of the Vocational Education Act of 1963.

3. Objectives of this 2-year program would be to prepare graduates for immediate entry into employment.

B. Encourage community colleges to develop quality pre-professional curriculums with course credits potentially transferable to baccalaureate degree programs in nursing.

1. Community colleges would coordinate with colleges of nursing to determine curriculum content.

2. Objectives of this curriculum would be directed toward courses applicable to needs of baccalaureate candidates in terms of credits as well as scope.

3. This curriculum would be part of the community college's Division of Arts and Sciences and not under the aegis of its Division of Vocational-Technical Education.

## IV. PROPOSED CONDUCT OF A DEFINITIVE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN NURSING ADMINISTERED IN COOPERATION WITH VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

A. Administration

Organizational structure would be comparable to other Health Occupations Education programs in area schools.

1. The Superintendent (head of the area community college or the vocational-technical school) acts for the area board of education.

2. Assisting him in the conduct of this educational program is the Director of Vocational-Technical Education.

3. The Head of Health Occupations Education administers all programs in Health Occupations Education under the leadership of the Director of Vocational-Technical Education. He assumes responsibility for the coordination and cooperation with the Director of Arts and Sciences when course content from this Division is related to, and included in, curriculum of programs in Health Occupations Education.

4. The Coordinator of the associate degree program in nursing administers this program under the leadership of the Head of Health Occupations Education.

5. All Instructors in this program are directly responsible to the Coordinator.

6. All personnel employed for this program will be staff members of the Area Community College or Vocational-Technical School.

B. Qualifications of Program Personnel:

1. The Head of Health Occupations Education will preferably hold a Masters Degree and have wide knowledge and experience in administration, supervision or teaching in health occupations.

2. Coordinators and Instructors would meet the qualifications as defined by the Iowa Board of Vocational Education and the Iowa Board of Nursing.

C. Use of Advisory Committee:

A representative group from the area would include professional nurses, doctors, nursing service administrators, hospital administrators, and active community members. This committee does not function as a policy making group but rather as an "advice" group.

D. Curriculum Content:

Would correlate nursing skills and knowledges adequate to prepare the graduate to function effectively upon entry into positions appropriate for the 2-year registered nurse.

There would be concurrent classroom teaching and clinical practice under supervision. Learning would progress from the simple to the complex and from the known to the unknown.

Based on the philosophy and objectives of a definitive program, curriculum content is developed in view of:

1. an analysis of the job requirements to function in the role of a nurse prepared in this field of nursing education.

2. identifiable knowledges and skills essential to this end.

3. including only those general courses, in full or in part, whose content directly is contributory to the objective.

4. Coordinating efforts with academicians to insure that course offerings within their disciplines consist of content apropos to the objectives of the program.

The ratio of classroom hours to clinical hours would vary depending upon content presented at any given period but would average approximately a 40% to 60% ration over-all.

E. Clinical Facilities:

1. Student learning experiences would be obtained in those cooperating health agencies where standards of nursing service meet the requirements of the State Board of Nursing.

2. A written contractual agreement will be maintained with all health agencies which cooperate with the school by providing clinical facilities for the supervised practice of students. This agreement will set forth the duties and responsibilities of each of the parties involved.

3. Clinical area assignments will be coordinated with classroom content and supervised by the faculty of the program.

F. Educational and Library Facilities:

Are the responsibility of and provided by the area community college or vocational-technical school and meet the recommendations of the Iowa Board of Vocational Education and the Iowa Board of Nursing.

G. Student Qualifications and Policies:

1. Qualifications are comparable to those required for entrants to diploma programs in nursing.

2. Student policies include those policies common to all students attending the community college regardless of program enrollment.

H. Length of Program:

1. 11 months per year for 2 years. (22 months)

2. Student would be in school a minimum of 28 hours per week.

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HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION SECTION
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BRANCH
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

# PROGRAM IN
# ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING

## OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM

This 22-month program is designed to prepare men and women, married or single, for first level general duty technical nursing positions.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The graduate is eligible to write the professional nurse licensing examination administered by the Iowa Board of Nursing. Successful achievement on this examination awards registered nurse status in the State of Iowa. The graduate is prepared to work in a beginning staff nurse position.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be at least seventeen (17) years of age.
2. High school graduate or equivalent (G.E.D.)
3. A physical health examination and the necessary immunizations.
4. Personal interviews with professional nurse faculty members of the program.
5. It is recommended that high school courses completed include science and mathematics.

## COST OF THE PROGRAM

Cost includes tuition, fees, textbooks and uniforms. The amount is determined by the educational institution which administers the program.

## LENGTH OF PROGRAM

The program is 22-months in length and includes two (2) academic school years and two (2) summer sessions. Classes are admitted in September only.

The degree of ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE is awarded upon the completion of the prescribed curriculum in which the student has earned an average grade point of 2.0 (C).

## CURRICULUM

See attached.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION SECTION
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# SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR A PROGRAM IN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING

| FIRST SEMESTER | Class Hrs. | Clin. Lab Hrs. | *Sem. Hrs. Credit |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nursing I (Fundamentals) | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| Physical & Biological Science I | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Sociology | 3 | | 3 |
| Basic Comm. Skills | 2 | | 2 |
| Basic Nutrition | 2 | | 2 |
| | 15 | 14 | 18 |
| **SECOND SEMESTER** | | | |
| Nursing II (Adults & Children) | 4 | 16 | 8 |
| Human Growth & Development | 3 | | 3 |
| Physical & Biological Science II | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Psychology | 3 | | 3 |
| | 12 | 18 | 17 |
| **SUMMER I** | | | |
| Nursing III (Psychiatric) | 8 | 24 | 7 |
| **THIRD SEMESTER** | | | |
| Nursing IV (Maternal-Infant) | 6 | 24 | 12 |
| Advanced Comm. Skills | 3 | | 3 |
| Elective (optional) | 3 | | 3 |
| | 12 | 24 | 18 |
| **FOURTH SEMESTER** | | | |
| Nursing V (Advanced Adult) | 6 | 24 | 12 |
| Trends in Nursing | 2 | | 2 |
| Elective (optional) | 3 | | 3 |
| | 11 | 24 | 17 |
| **SUMMER II** | | | |
| Nursing VI (Comprehensive) | 8 | 24 | 7 |

*Ratio of semester hours credit to clinical laboratory hours may be adjusted to coincide with the policies of the educational institution.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION SECTION
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# SUGGESTED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN APPLIED SCIENCE IN NURSING

## Nursing I (Fundamentals)

6 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A course designed to provide orientation to nursing and an understanding of nursing techniques and skills basic to the care of all patients. Includes man's basic needs, interpersonal relationships, foundations of aspesis, pharmacology, nutrition, emergency nursing.
Four class hours and 10 hours of clinical laboratory practice per week.

## Physical & Biological Science I

5 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A comprehensive course comprised of selected principles from anatomy, physiology, physics, chemistry and microbiology with emphasis on application of these principles to the structure and function of the human body.
Four class hours and four laboratory hours per week.

## Sociology

3 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A study of basic sociological principles and of the basic process of group behavior. Includes the study of social interaction, family and group life, social institutions, status and role, culture, population, structure and change, and community structure, both urban and rural.
Three class hours per week.

## Basic Communication Skills

2 Sem. Hr. Cr.

This course is designed with emphasis on effective reading, writing, speaking, and listening, with applied practice based on professional need.
Two class hours per week.

## Basic Nutrition

2 Sem. Hr. Cr.

Basic concepts and principles of the normal dietary needs of the well child and adult.
Two class hours per week.

## Nursing II (Adults and Children)

8 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A study of nursing care of children and adults with long-term illnesses and rehabilitative needs. Clinical laboratory practice is obtained in the medical-surgical and pediatrics units. Includes further learnings in pharmacology, nutrition, and emergency nursing.
Four classroom hours and 16 hours of clinical laboratory practice per week.

Human Growth and Development — 3 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A course to study normal human development from infancy to adulthood. It includes the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual developmental aspects.
Three class hours per week.

Physical and Biological Science II — 3 Sem. Hr. Cr.

Pre-requisite: Physical and Biological Science I
Continuation of first semester.
Two class hours and two laboratory hours per week.

Psychology — 3 Sem. Hr. Cr.

An introduction to the scientific study of behavior. Include a brief history of psychology as a science, influences of heredity and environment, motivation, frustration and conflict, the learning process, intelligence, perception, and mental health.
Three class hours per week.

Nursing III (Mental Illness) — 7 Sem. Hr. Cr.

Emphasis is given to increased self knowledge, understanding normal and deviate behavior, understanding therapeutic response and interaction based on manifest behavior rather than diagnosis. Clinical laboratory practice will be obtained in approved psychiatric units.
Eight class hours and 24 hours of clinical laboratory practice per week.

Nursing IV (Maternal-Infant) — 12 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A study of the reproductive aspects of life as they affect the whole family. Development of principles underlying nursing skills necessary to promote optimum health and safety for mother and infant during normal or complicated maternity cycle. Includes correlated learnings in pharmacology, nutrition and emergency nursing.
Six class hours and 24 hours of clinical laboratory practice per week.

Advanced Communication Skills — 3 Sem. Hr. Cr.

Pre-requisite: Basic Communication Skills
This course is designed to give speaking experience to meet professional needs and includes research paper writing and critical reading.
Three class hours per week.

Nursing V (Advanced Adult-Child) — 12 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A study of nursing care of adults and children with more complex or acute conditions of illness. Clinical experience will be obtained in medical-surgical, pediatrics, operating room and recovery room units. Continues the application of principles of pharmacology, nutrition, and emergency nursing.
Six hours of class and 24 hours of clinical practice per week.

Trends in Nursing — 2 Sem. Hr. Cr.

A survey of nursing with particular reference to historical and contemporary movements, ethical principles, study of nursing organizations, employment, financial programming, nursing literature, legislation and preparation for licensure.
Two class hours per week.

Nursing VI (Comprehensive Nursing Care) — 7 Sem. Hr. Cr.

Provides opportunities: (1) to apply knowledge with increased independence in giving total patient care to several patients with multiple needs and (2) to develop understandings of, and appreciation for, the role of each member of the health team and her role as a graduate nurse on this team.
Eight class hours and 24 hours of clinical laboratory experience per week.